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(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- Last night, President Obama called for a swift transition in Egypt; today, Rep. Russ Carnahan issued the following statement on the ongoing crisis:

**"As Missourians watch events unfold in Egypt, it's important that we recognize how much is at stake for us right here in the St. Louis region. We can see it right at the gas pump – oil prices are already up to \$90 per barrel as a result of the crisis.**

**"Considering the key role Egypt has played in maintaining an already tenuous stability in the Middle East, the need for a swift and peaceful transfer of power is apparent.**

**"This crisis is an opportunity for the people of Egypt to establish a government that's responsive to the hopes and needs of all its citizens, and the United States must reaffirm its commitment to democracy and human rights by supporting these aspirations.**

**"Egypt has long been a strategically important partner for U.S. security interests in the region, and we remain committed to that relationship. The United States must stand ready to work constructively with all parties – not only with the Egyptian government, but with the Egyptian people. "**

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*Russ Carnahan is a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. He is the Ranking Member on the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.*